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SUBJECT: OAS Elections: Trinidad Supports Current SYG and ASYG

REF: 10 STATE 16528

¶1. (SBU) MFA Director of Affairs of the Americas Delia Chatoor told us February 24 that Trinidad and Tobago (TT) supports the candidacies of Jose Miguel Insulza for OAS SYG and Albert Ramdin for ASYG and has informed Santiago of that support. Chatoor said the decision was made at the highest levels of government, pursuant to a general GOTT policy of supporting incumbents in multilateral organizations when doing so would enhance continuity and stability. She indicated that the GOTT has also informed CARICOM of its support of the candidates, which is consistent with CARICOM goals.

¶2. (SBU) Chatoor offered that TT would support clearly-defined reform measures to strengthen the institution. "We're always in favor of looking inward, and outward," to find better ways of doing business, she said. She noted that the TT Ambassador to the OAS is very engaged, as is the CARICOM caucus of OAS members.

¶3. (SBU) Regarding Haiti, Chatoor said that, as a CARICOM member, Haiti remains of great concern to the Caribbean community and that the situation there is being closely monitored by CARICOM.  
Kusnitz